

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EUR-12 EA-10 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-10

OMB-01 /111 W

----- 015427

R 300738Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8171

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 12015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, MARR, PK, US

SUBJ: BHUTTO ON FOREIGN POLICY

REF: ISLAMABAD 12001 (NOTAL)

1. ASIDE FROM ARMS POLICY, AND (TO HIM) THE RELATED ISSUE OF PAKISTAN'S MEMBERSHIP IN CENTO, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ALSO MADE SEVERAL NOTEWORTHY COMMENTS ON PAK FOREIGN AFFAIRS MATTERS IN COURSE INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN PRESS CORRESPONDENTS REPORTED IN REFTEL. MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE WERE HIS RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ON GOP RELATIONS WITH ITS SOUTH ASIAN NEIGHBORS.

2. AFGHANISTAN. ASKED ABOUT RELATIONS WITH GOA BY REPORTER WHO SAID THAT PRESIDENT DAUD HAD TOLD HIM EARLIER IN DECEMBER THAT "OFFICIALLY AFGHANISTAN(HAS) NEVER RECEIVED ANY PROPOSALS TO DISCUSS ANY KIND OF AGREEMENT", BHUTTO PROFESSED HIMSELF PUZZLED, SAID THAT CONTACT AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL HAS BEEN MAINTAINED,
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AND MENTIONEDWS JZZN INITIATIVES "TO TRY AND BRING PAKISTAN AND

AFGHANISTAN ON TO A BETTER LEVEL OF RELATIONSHIP". WHEN
PRESSED AS TO WHETHER "THERE HAS BEEN ANY HELPFUL TALK AS A HIGHER
LEVEL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES", BHUTTO MENTIONED MINISTER OF
STATE AZIZ AHMED'S KABUL VISIT A YEAR AGO IN PREPARATION FOR
LAHORE ISLAMIC SUMMIT, WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOP WAS "ALWAYS READY
TO HAVE A DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY
OUR NEIGHBORS AND SPECIALLY WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHOM
THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROOEMENT IN RELATIONS". NOTING PAST GOA
STATEMENTS THAT DISCUSSIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE "WITHOUT
CONDITIONS", PM SAID GOP SUBSCRIBED TO POSITION THAT DISCUSSIONS
SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN AN "OPEN ATMOSPHERE" IN WHICH "WE ARE
NOT ALREADY TIED DOWN BY TAKING ONE POSITION OR ANOTHER". HE
CAUTIONED THAT WHILE PAKISTAN PREPARED FOR ADJUSTMENTS AND
ACCOMMODATIONS, THESE COULD NOT BE "AT THE COST OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY
AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY".

3. INDIA. BHUTTO TOOK A LONG-TERM VIEW OF INDO-PAK TIES,
TELLING A QUESTIONER WHO ASKED HIM ABOUT THE CONTINUING ABSENCE
OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TWO AND A HALF YEARS AFTER THE SIMLA
AGREEMENT THAT THE TEMPO OF IMPROVED RELATIONS SHOULD BE GAUGED
IN TERMS OF "THE WHOLE SWEEP OF CENTURIES WHICH HAS LAID DOWN THE
GROUND RULES OF THE SUBCONTINENT". IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID, THE
TEMPO HAS NOT BEEN SLOW. IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, BHUTTO
SAID HE DID NOT RULE OUT ANOTHER SUMMIT MEETING WITH INDIAN PM
GANDHI IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE CATEGORICALLY REJECTED A
CORRESPONDENT'S SUGGESTION THAT KASHMIR BE DIVIDED BETWEEN INDIA
AND PAKISTAN AND REITERATED GOP INSISTENCE ON SELF-DETERMINATION
FOR THE STATE. A GOI AGREEMENT WITH SHEIKH ABDULLAH DOES NOT MEET
THIS REQUIREMENT, HE SAID, BUT MERELY RETURNS THE SITUATION TO
ITS 1947-53 STATUS. HE RULED OUT AS "TOO HIGH A PRICE TO PAY" THE
GOP'S ABANDONING OF THE SELF-DETERMINATION PRINCIPLE IN EXCHANGE
FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH INDIA.

4. BANGLADESH. BHUTTO RECALLED THE COMMITMENT HE HAD MADE DURING
HIS JUNE VISIT TO DACCA TO SET UP A JOINT COMMISSION ON ASSETS
AND LIABILITIES AND TO SET A DEADLINE FOR THAT COMMISSION
TO COME TO CONCLUSIONS. HE CAUTIONED THAT THE PROPOSAL
"WILL NOT HOLD GOOD INDEFINITELY", WARNING THAT IF THE BDG
"KEEPS ON TAKING A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE THAT THERE ARE ONLY ASSETS
AND NO LIABILITIES, IN THAT EVENT THE PROPOSAL WILL NOT HOLD
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GOOD AND WILL STAND WITHDRAWN". HE REJECTED THE IDEA THAT BENGALLEE
FRIENDSHIP WITH PAKISTAN WAS DEPENDENT ON GOI CONSENT AND SAID
THAT INDIA COULD NOT OVER THE LONG RUN SUBJUGATE OR DOMINATE BD,
FOR WHOSE PEOPLE HE EXPRESSED THE HIGHEST ESTEEM.
BYROADE

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